

## POVERTY IN EUROPE.

### THE TENEMENT EVIL IN ITS MOST FORBIDDING FORM.

Tenements in London and New York.—The History of the Poverty Stricken Districts of Naples—A Spot that Constitutes a Peril to the World.

#### Squalid Quarters.

To the Four Hundred, whose chief aim is to kill time as pleasantly as possible, and whose only trouble about money is that of going to the bank to get it, the problem of existence for the great mass of mankind has little interest, says the New York Herald. Even many who are not of the charmed circle that constitutes "society," but who live in comparative comfort, pass their lives in ignorance of the fierce and unceasing struggle waged among that class of breadwinners who are forced to rely on strength without skill for their daily sustenance.

Even at its best, tenement life has few attractions and many features that render it disagreeable, if not repulsive. A room in a great tenement building is in no sense of the word a substitute for a home. The dwellers in tenements have a shelter, but no home. That magic word arouses no sentiment among the inhabitants of a tenement. To them the word home means a crowded room in which all necessary work of the household is carried on, where the cooking and eating and sleeping and housework are all done; a room where the smell of stale food and of soapuds is ever present; where in winter the atmosphere is close and steamy; where in summer, whatever the temperature outside, that within is always 5 to 10 degrees higher than the added heat of the stove on which cooking and washing are done. It means an approach through a dark hall, where chil-

sons were known to inhabit a district hardly equal in size to one of our city blocks. In such dense masses of population disease and vice ran riot. The yards and streets were filled with children knowing no parental ties, having no home. The water used for drinking

Much has been written of the tenements of New York, but it should be fully understood that the tenement there, as elsewhere on the Western continent, is the home of the poorest class of non-English foreigners, who have imparted to this country the manner and habits of life with which they are most familiar in their native lands. Germans are seldom found in these quarters. There is a strong love of the home imbued in the Teutonic character, and no sooner does a German come to this country than he at once strains every nerve to pay for a house. How he lives he does not seem to care until the house is paid for; that is the main point, and until that has been accomplished he never feels easy. The tenement is no place for him. But to the lowest classes of Russian, Polish, Bohemian and Italian laborers the tenement is a natural place of abode. It represents as much comfort as most of them have been accustomed to all their lives; its squalor and dirt and noise have no terrors for them, for in some respects the tenement of this country is a marked improvement over the tenement of Europe.

The investigations made by committees of Parliament have resulted, directly or indirectly, in a very decided improvement in the condition of the tenement districts of London, better houses being provided at rentals not much in excess of what were formerly demanded, but there is still room for improvement. It may seem strange to many that East London should be so congested, but it should not be forgotten that in countries like England there is absolutely no opportunity for the poor to purchase a home. In most American cities property in the suburbs is comparatively cheap, and rapid transit enables a man to live miles from his work, but not so in England. The cheapest suburban property is far

lifted. The worst tenements in New York or Boston or St. Louis or Chicago are veritable palaces when compared with the worst in the cities of Southern Europe. It is probable that there will always be tenements as long as a large number of people continue very poor, but it is not probable that they will ever become a menace to the health or morality of this country. Benevolent effort alone might be re-



WASHING DAY IN THE ROW.

and for household purposes was obtained from cisterns which were filled from roof and street, or from wells into which the sewage of a whole neighborhood slowly but surely filtered. Time after time did cholera ravage the whole tenement district, carrying off its victims by thousands, while typhoid, typhus and other malignant fevers were almost equally destructive. In despair at the condition of affairs, the Government at last undertook in earnest the amelioration of the state of the people in the tenement districts, and at first constructed sewers. But these only made matters worse, for the engineering was bad, the fall insufficient, and every high tide carried back into the sewers the refuse that could not find an exit. Cholera became more frequent and deadly. Naples became a plague spot for Italy and a center of interest to all Europe as being the place whence disease was scattered broadcast. The neglected pauper of the city on the beautiful bay was having his revenge. Society had ignored him, but the disease he bred could work destruction to society. In despair, the Italian Government finally determined to clear out the heart of Naples, to pull down the tenements and replace them with healthy houses.

With more zeal than discretion the work was begun, but it succeeded only in shifting the evil, for the wretched population had to be evicted in order to tear down the buildings in which they lived. All sorts of refugees were taken advantage of by the poor creatures thus unceremoniously thrust out. Grottoes which had formerly been used as wine cellars, catacombs, caves, and every place where a human being could find shelter, were utilized. In one cave two hundred people took refuge and paid rent. The cholera broke out among them and carried off nearly every inmate. In the catacombs 500 or 600 found room with the dead of 1800 years ago, and most were soon numbered with them. The pestilence at last claimed those who slept in the cellars, along the quays.

A worse state of things ensued. The houses erected proved too expensive; the people for whom they were intended could not pay the rents demanded, the buildings were taken up by people of more means, and the borders of the tenements were driven to lower depths. Thus the matter now stands, the Government having done all it can, and the condition of the tenement population not being in the least improved. These are the people from whom the lowest orders of tenement dwellers in this country are recruited. They are not criminals, although criminals are sometimes of their number; they are simply unfortunate whom ages of misery have removed almost beyond the reach of a helping hand. They are to be pitied rather than blamed, for in their native land the conditions are all

characterize it in Naples and other Mediterranean cities is not easy to believe. The nature of our institutions is such that it is impossible for even such unfortunates as these not to participate to some extent in the benefits of our civilization and be gradually up-



A TENEMENT PRODUCT.

lied on for preventing any such peril, and when to this is added the watchful care of health boards, the danger that any city of this continent will ever become an American Naples must be considered very slight.

#### The Market Price of Wives.

In the earliest times of purchase, a woman was bartered for useful goods, or for services rendered to her father. In this latter way Jacob purchased Rachel and her sister Leah. The price of a bride in British Columbia and Vancouver Island varies from twenty to fifty pounds' worth of articles. In Oregon, an Indian gives for her, horses, or buffalo robes; in California, shell-money or horses; in Africa, cattle.

A poor Damara will sell a daughter for a cow; a richer Kaffir expects from three to thirty. With the Banyan, if nothing be given, her family claim her children. In Uganda, where no marriage recently existed, she may be obtained for half a dozen needles, or a coat, or a pair of shoes. An ordinary price is a box of percussion caps. In other parts, a goat or a couple of buckskins will buy a girl.

Passing to Asia, we find her price is sometimes five to fifteen roubles, or at others a carload of wood or hay. A princess may be purchased for three thousand roubles. In Tartary, a woman can be purchased for a few pounds of butter, or where a rich man gives twenty small oxen, a poor man may succeed with a pig. In Fiji her



A NEW YORK TENEMENT.

against them. It is stated that nearly one-half the population of Naples is without regular means of subsistence, and no mortal can ever conjecture how much often ineffectual striving against starvation is expressed in that statement.

That tenement life should be found in this country is not strange, when the promiscuous immigration from the south and east central districts of Europe is remembered, but that it will ever assume the repulsive phases that

equivalent is a whale's tooth or a musket. These, and similar prices elsewhere, are eloquent testimony to the little value a savage sets on his wife. Her charms vanish with her girlhood. She is usually married while a child, and through her cruel slavery and bitter life, she often becomes old and repulsive at twenty-five.

#### Bunsen's Carbons.

Bunsen's carbons were first put in to practical use in 1842.

## NINE MILLION SHORT.

### LARGE DEFICIENCY IN THE POSTAL REVENUES.

Report of Mr. Bissell—How He Would Decrease Expense and Increase Receipts—Readjustment of Regulations and Other Reforms Urged.

#### Shows a Big Shortage.

Postmaster General Bissell has submitted to the President his annual report for the year ended June 3, 1894. He briefly outlines the policy of the department.

In general I would recommend that the first and most important thing to be done is to revise the law as to the second-class matter so as to place the Post-office Department immediately upon a self-sustaining basis.

2. Avoid expensive experiments like the postal telegraph, rural free delivery, etc.

3. Develop the postal service on existing lines of administration, viz:

Extend free delivery in cities that now enjoy it.

Accord it to towns already entitled to it under the law.

Quicken railroad transportation.

4. Revise and reclassify organization of the railway mail service, and reclassify clerks in postoffices.

5. Provide for district supervision of all postal affairs by appointment of expert postal officials from classified service, as recommended in my last annual report.

The revenue for the year was \$75,080,479; expenditures, \$84,324,414, leaving a deficiency of \$9,243,935. The estimates for the current year ending June 30, 1895, are: Revenue, \$84,427,748; expenditures, \$90,359,483; deficiency, \$5,931,735. The estimates submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury for the next fiscal year are: Revenue, \$84,907,407; expenditures, \$91,059,283; deficiency, \$6,151,876.

This annual deficiency, the Postmaster General says, could be overcome by the increase in postal rates, but he does not believe this is advisable. Economy has been practiced, but nevertheless great care has been taken that it should not affect the efficiency of the service. Mr. Bissell recommends that the experimental free-delivery projects should be discontinued, and thinks that free delivery in rural districts is not needed or desired by the people.

#### Too Much Second-Class Matter.

One of the most important and interesting features of Mr. Bissell's report is its discussion of class matter. In his last report he referred to the great disposition of growth of second-class mail matter. He gives figures for the last six years, showing that in 1888 the weight of second-class mail matter carried was 143,000,000 pounds, and in 1893 it was 256,000,000. During the year 1894 there was carried 451,000,000 pounds of all mail matter, of which 200,000,000 pounds was second-class matter, the total cost being \$36,207,572, an average of 8 cents a pound. Returns from postmasters show that the amount upon which postage at the rate of 1 cent per pound was paid was 257,000,000 pounds, the remaining 45,000,000 pounds being matter carried free in the country of publication. The cost of carrying the second-class matter was \$20,329,000, while, at the rate of 1 cent a pound, the collections were \$2,547,000, and \$800,000 special local rates in carrier cities, leaving a net loss to the Government of \$16,573,000. The Postmaster General continues:

I do not advocate a change of rates now upon legitimate newspapers and periodical magazines. My purpose is to urge the withdrawal of low postage rates from the large cities and the pretended periodicals that are now improperly enjoying them.

#### Books and Bogus Trade Papers.

The most conspicuous class of these pretended periodicals is what is now generally known as serial paper-covered books. They are in no sense serial, however, except in name, being usually given some general designation, as the "Fireside Series," "The Detective Library," or some other title of like character. Another class is what has got to be known as the "house organ," being simply a number devoted mainly to the advertising of some mercantile establishment, but purporting to be devoted to trade. The bogus trade devoted mainly to the advertising of some particular house, is another illustration.

After commenting on the great increase in the mailing of fraternal insurance publications as second-class matter, Mr. Bissell suggests the remedy in the following: If it be the policy of Congress to continue the privileges of second-class rates to benevolent or fraternal societies, then the remedy I would suggest would be an amendment of the law limiting this rate to them and to legitimate newspapers and legitimate periodical magazines.

The Postmaster General does not favor the postal telegraph, a system advocated by his predecessor. The conditions in this country, he says, are such as would enormously increase the large deficit. He takes as example the system in Great Britain, which is a comparatively small territory, and shows that the postal telegraph entails a total annual loss of about \$2,000,000. He points out that in a country where the territory is so large the cost of a postal telegraph would far exceed any possible receipts or benefits.

Mr. Bissell gives the following daily average business of the department, which shows the vastness of the postal service:

Number of miles of post route run, 1,100,000  
Number of stamps manufactured, 8,300,000  
Number of envelopes manufactured, 1,800,000  
Number of postal cards manufactured, 1,500,000  
Number of pieces mailed, 15,700,000  
Number of letters mailed, 7,400,000  
Number of pieces handled in dead letter office, 27,500,000  
Number of pieces handled in dead letter office, 24,000  
Daily transactions in money order, \$1,100,000  
Daily expenses, \$231,109

The Postmaster General believes in civil service in the Postoffice Department. He says:

If the system has produced such good results in the clerical force of the department it is reasonable to inquire whether something like could not be applied with advantage to the lower grades of postmasters. For more than one generation the American people have been trained to regard the postoffice as inseparable from the varying fortunes of the two great political parties, and in some instances, even, as legitimately following the vicissitudes of mere factions within a party. This fallacy is to be deplored. The intelligence of our people has long outgrown the notion that any one political party enjoys a monopoly of administrative talent.

The local postoffice is closely connected with the every-day life of the people who patronize it, and nothing is further from the principles of home rule and majority rule than to force any change whatever. Yet this is what happens and is bound to happen as long as the postoffice remains in the public mind, and hence in the practice of the government associated with politics.

The postal service must either be taken out

of the political field altogether and surrounded with the same conditions which conduce to the health of a private business or be divided, for administrative purposes, into two sections—the one political and the other non-political, each under a separate head, so that the executive authority of the non-political side shall not be required to give any of his thought to the improvement of the postal system.

### MATTER OF PENSION APPEALS.

Work of the Board Reviewed in a Report Made to Secretary Smith.

The work of the Board of Pension appeals during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, is fully reviewed in a report made by the assistant secretary of the interior, John M. Reynolds, to Secretary Smith. In summarizing the administration of the office, Reynolds says: "Upon taking charge of the office of assistant secretary in April, 1893, I found 4,965 appeals pending on the docket with the work of the board of appeals more than two years behind. In eighteen and one-half months, with 5,847 additional appeals entered during that time, current appeals are being decided, and tardy justice no longer follows the appeal to the department by any deserving soldier, widow or orphan. Thus 10,812 cases were considered on appeal and finally ruled upon, a greater number of them was never before disposed of in the same length of time, and more than double the number considered in any period under my predecessor." The small balance of arrears is said to consist almost entirely of claims undergoing further investigation in the pension bureau and others which, for final decision, await the determination of legal questions that will be decisive of all.

The sub-committee of the House on pensions met Saturday, and after listening for an hour to Commissioner Lochren's explanation of the requirements of his office, virtually decided to report a bill providing for the appropriations recommended by the commissioner in his estimate, except in one item of fees for examining surgeons. The original estimate was that \$1,000,000 would be required to pay these fees, but Lochren told the committee he thought \$800,000 would be sufficient, and that figure was decided upon. Pension appropriations as decided upon by the sub-committee will, therefore, be: For pensions, \$140,000,000; for surgeons' fees, \$800,000; for clerk hire at pension agencies, \$450,000; miscellaneous, \$131,570.

### BOUND TO HAVE THE BOUNTY.

Sugar Growers of the Country File Suits Against the United States.

The controversy between the sugar growers of the country and the United States Government growing out of the repeal of the sugar bounty clause in the McKinley bill by the new tariff act and the subsequent refusal of the Treasury Department to pay bounties upon sugar grown in the present year, reached the first stage in its progress to a definite legal settlement Saturday. J. Fairchild Murray, an attorney of New York, has filed in the court of claims three suits, identical in character, and all seeking to recover from the Government sums of money alleged to be legally due complainants as a bounty upon sugar raised by them in the year 1894. The China Valley Beet Sugar Company of New Jersey, sues for \$48,121, the Norfolk Beet Sugar Company, of New Jersey, for \$3,063, and the Oxford Beet Sugar Company, for \$11,782. The complaints are based upon the allegation that the United States by an act of Congress granting a bounty of one-half cent per pound upon all sugar grown in the United States and the Territories, entered into a legal contract with complainants, as well as other sugar growers, and led them by its terms to undertake the cultivation of beets and other plants from which sugar is obtained, but which could not have been profitably pursued without the benefits of such contract. The claim is further made that the crops of complainants were growing and the sugar resulting from them in process of manufacture long before the passage by Congress of the measure repealing the provisions of the act granting a bounty, and the Government has no right to withhold the payment of bounties alleged to be due. The cases will probably be pushed to an early hearing in the court of claims and will then be taken to the United States Court for final settlement. It is understood the suits are brought as test cases, and will be vigorously contested, as an amount reaching some \$11,000,000 is at stake in the controversy.

#### Sparks from the Wires.

Almost the entire business portion of Marion, N. C., was burned. The loss is estimated at \$125,000.

Professor Jean Victor Durny, the French historian and an ex-minister of public instruction, is dead.

Three citizens of Brookside, Ala., were probably fatally shot by moonshiners, who took them for officers.

Officers tried to arrest Claude Moss at a church near Carrollton, Miss., and killed him when he resisted arrest.

Two men entered the Erie station at Bloomfield, N. J., and after binding the agent robbed the cash drawer.

Seven business houses and one dwelling were destroyed at Swazey, Ind. It is feared a woman lost her life.

Robert E. Harvey, the noted forger, who escaped from jail at Bel Air, Md., was captured in Lansing, Mich.

A railway construction gang attempted to lay tracks on a Delaware, Ohio, street, but repented on being placed in jail.

Fire caused by a defective fuse destroyed a block of dwellings in Kansas City. The loss will reach \$100,000.

Japanese loss in the assault on Port Arthur was but 250 in killed and wounded. Many valuable stores were captured.

According to Superintendent Stump, of the Immigration Bureau, more foreigners are leaving the country than are coming in.

Trading on the Chicago Stock Exchange last week was the largest in its history, nearly 60,000 shares changing hands.

Isaac Taylor and wife and Miss Kidwell were run down and killed on a bridge at South Branch, Md., while on their way to church.

Chicago Russian-Americans in mass-meeting petitioned the czar to grant his people freedom of speech and religion and the right of assembly.

Three fires broke out at about the same time in Zanesville, Ohio, and led to the impression that a systematic attempt was being made to destroy the town.

In his annual report the Postmaster General recommends the extension of the free-delivery system, quickening of railway transportation, and revision of the law as to second-class matter.



THE TENEMENT DISTRICT OF NAPLES.

dren in all stages of squalor tumble over each other on the floor; it means narrow and rickety stairs, porches festooned with clothes-lines and ornamented with garments flapping in the wind. It means 100 and perhaps 1,000 human beings under one roof. It means strife at all times of the day, quarrels that have an origin no one knows how and that never end. Too often it means drunkenness and vice. Sometimes it means deadly assaults and murder, and the police and the court and the jail.

Tenement life in America, and particularly in the West, is, however, an exotic. There are tenements in St. Louis, but they are not, as a general



OUT OF WORK.

thing, inhabited by Americans, nor do the better classes of foreign people find an abode in the quarters where many families live under the same roof. As a general thing, these hives of humanity are given up to foreigners whose lack of education and ignorance of the language prevent them from obtaining any but the most severe description of manual labor. They are not criminals, though it is unfortunately true that a very narrow line of demarcation sometimes separates the tenement population from that of the slums. They are hard-working men and women, but lack the faculty of "getting along," and no matter how steadily and arduously they toil, they find themselves always confronted with the same problem—that of providing food and clothing and of paying the rent. Never for an hour does the battle cease until some day the undertaker's wagon backs up at the front entrance amid the assembled popula-